strategic centers of the Eighteen Provinces, notably in a city in Hupeh, in Nanking, and in Canton, The heads of the major divisions of the Banners—commonly known as Tartar Generals—outranked the Viceroys, and nominally served as a check on them—part of that elaborate system in which the Ch'ing sought safety against revolt. As time wore on, the members of the Banners became parasitic pensionaries, totally incompetent as a military force. They proved entirely useless, for example, at the time of the T'ai P'ing Rebellion and in the uprising which ushered in the Republic.

In addition to the Banners was the Army of the Green Standard, made up of Chinese, organized by provinces, and subdivided into land and naval forces. About the middle of the nineteenth century this numbered, in theory, somewhat more than six hundred thousand. The body in actual service, however, was probably very much smaller, for officials padded the rolls to draw pay for as many as possible and increased their own incomes by reducing to the lowest possible point the numbers of those in the •ranks. The units of the Green Standard were so divided under various commands that only with difficulty could they be welded into an effective force on a large scale—an insurance against serious rebellion, but also a severe handicap when a major revolt or foreign invasion had to be faced. Each province had a commander of the Green Standard, but in practice heads of subordinate units were accorded much latitude, and some of the civil officials, such as the Viceroys, had contingents directly under their control.

For admission to official position in the army, a system of military examinations existed which corresponded

fairly closely in its main stages and degrees to that for the civil service. There were tests in the *hsien* and the *fu* for entrance to the first degree, others, usually every three years, in the provincial capital,, for the second degree, and for the third degree examinations, only a£ Peking, and usually also about every three years. As in the case of the tests for the civil service, successful aspirants became expectant officials, and appointment to office generally depended even more upon family connection and discreet gifts to those who could bring about promotion than upon high rank in the competition. The subject matter of the examinations was in part tests in